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October 2, 1998

Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 "M" Street N.W., Room 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Ref: FCC WT Docket 98-143

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Dear Magalie R. Salas:

FCC MAIL ROOM

In the matter of 1998 biennial Regulatory Review- - Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's Amateur Service Rules, FCC WT Docket 98-143, my feelings in the matter are tabulated and expressed as follows:

**PROPOSED REQUIREMENTS**

LICENSE CLASS	WRITTEN EXAMINATION	CODE SPEED
EXTRA	Present Format Satisfactory	20 WPM
ADVANCED	Present Format Satisfactory	13 WPM
GENERAL	Present Format Satisfactory	13 WPM
TECHNICIAN	Present Format Satisfactory	5 WPM See Note (1)
NOVICE	Abolish this license class	No CODE See Note (2)

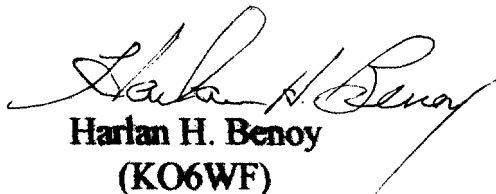
- NOTE Written examination for this class license should include a section
- (1) on operating procedures in addition to the presently selected set of questions.
- (2) The Novice Class License should be abolished. I firmly believe that a morse code requirement should be included in any exam except in those cases where the person is handicapped, and then only if the applicant is clearly incapable of learning the code and offers a prepared reason for his inaptitude from his physician.

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List A B C D E

I believe it is a severe imposition on amateur radio operators to reduce the licensing requirements for new-comers, only to swell the amateur ranks, in spite of the advent of digital technology and it's new- found multiple applications in technology. Yet something has to be implemented to encourage the younger generation in this avocation, less it falter. Most of our spectacular innovations were spurred by radio amateurs and the future for engineers of excellence must be preserved. Surely the sorry mess that developed when the FCC abandoned the licensing of Citizen Banders must be avoided and I would despise the thought of that happening to Amateur Radio. Individuals who are so inclined seek to improve their minds by adding to their wealth of information and to diminish the licensing requirements surely does not tender added incentive. It is akin to making life easier for a spoiled child rather than imposing a punishment for his misdeeds. Yet, as time proceeds, our youth are taking to the world wide web rather than study the code for Amateur Examinations. Also, all a person has to do is purchase a CD these days for his PC to become familiar with the questions and answers in order to pass an amateur examination. This discounts any mental agility to become a licensed operator and dulls the inclination to further learning. Is there an answer to this enigma ?

The problem is of tremendous proportions and I do hope that the FCC will solve the riddle and come up with answers that will encourage an increase in the number of radio amateurs that will be a credit to our country and not the type that will intentionally induce unwanted noise and harmonics that are a hindrance to the rest of us.

Respectfully yours,

  
Harlan H. Benoy  
(KO6WF)